

218A.202 Electronic system for monitoring controlled substances -- Penalty for illegal use of system -- Pilot project -- Continuing education programs.

- (1) The Cabinet for Health Services shall establish an electronic system for monitoring Schedules II, III, IV, and V controlled substances that are dispensed within the Commonwealth by a practitioner or pharmacist or dispensed to an address within the Commonwealth by a pharmacy that has obtained a license, permit, or other authorization to operate from the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy.
- (2) A practitioner or a pharmacist shall not have to pay a fee or tax specifically dedicated to the operation of the system.
- (3) Every dispenser within the Commonwealth or any other dispenser who has obtained a license, permit, or other authorization to operate from the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy shall report to the Cabinet for Health Services the data required by this section in a timely manner as prescribed by the cabinet except that reporting shall not be required for:
 - (a) A drug administered directly to a patient; or
 - (b) A drug dispensed by a practitioner at a facility licensed by the cabinet provided that the quantity dispensed is limited to an amount adequate to treat the patient for a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours.
- (4) Data for each controlled substance that is dispensed shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - (a) Patient identifier;
 - (b) Drug dispensed;
 - (c) Date of dispensing;
 - (d) Quantity dispensed;
 - (e) Prescriber; and
 - (f) Dispenser.
- (5) The data shall be provided in the electronic format specified by the Cabinet for Health Services unless a waiver has been granted by the cabinet to an individual dispenser. The cabinet shall establish acceptable error tolerance rates for data. Dispensers shall ensure that reports fall within these tolerances. Incomplete or inaccurate data shall be corrected upon notification by the cabinet if the dispenser exceeds these error tolerance rates.
- (6) The Cabinet for Health Services shall be authorized to provide data to:
 - (a) A designated representative of a board responsible for the licensure, regulation, or discipline of practitioners, pharmacists, or other person who is authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense controlled substances and who is involved in a bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person;
 - (b) A Kentucky peace officer certified pursuant to KRS 15.380 to 15.404, a certified or full-time peace officer of another state, or a federal peace officer whose duty is to enforce the laws of this Commonwealth, of another state, or of the United States relating to drugs and who is engaged in a bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person;

- (c) A state-operated Medicaid program;
 - (d) A properly convened grand jury pursuant to a subpoena properly issued for the records;
 - (e) A practitioner or pharmacist who requests information and certifies that the requested information is for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical treatment to a bona fide current patient;
 - (f) In addition to the purposes authorized under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, for any physician who is:
 - 1. Associated in a partnership or other business entity with a physician who is already under investigation by the Board of Medical Licensure for improper prescribing practices;
 - 2. In a designated geographic area for which a trend report indicates a substantial likelihood that inappropriate prescribing may be occurring; or
 - 3. In a designated geographic area for which a report on another physician in that area indicates a substantial likelihood that inappropriate prescribing may be occurring in that area; or
 - (g) A judge or a probation or parole officer administering a diversion or probation program of a criminal defendant arising out of a violation of this chapter or of a criminal defendant who is documented by the court as a substance abuser who is eligible to participate in a court-ordered drug diversion or probation program.
- (7) The Department for Medicaid Services may use any data or reports from the system for the purpose of identifying Medicaid recipients whose usage of controlled substances may be appropriately managed by a single outpatient pharmacy or primary care physician.
- (8) A person who receives data or any report of the system from the cabinet shall not provide it to any other person or entity except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, except that:
- (a) A peace officer specified in subsection (6)(b) of this section who is authorized to receive data or a report may share that information with other peace officers specified in subsection (6)(b) of this section authorized to receive data or a report if the peace officers specified in subsection (6)(b) of this section are working on a bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person. Both the person providing and the person receiving the data or report under this paragraph shall document in writing each person to whom the data or report has been given or received and the day, month, and year that the data or report has been given or received. This document shall be maintained in a file by each law enforcement agency engaged in the investigation; and
 - (b) A representative of the Department for Medicaid Services may share data or reports regarding overutilization by Medicaid recipients with a board designated in paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of this section, or with a law enforcement officer designated in paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of this section; and

- (c) The Department for Medicaid Services may submit the data as evidence in an administrative hearing held in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
- (9) The Cabinet for Health Services, all peace officers specified in subsection (6)(b) of this section, all officers of the court, and all regulatory agencies and officers, in using the data for investigative or prosecution purposes, shall consider the nature of the prescriber's and dispenser's practice and the condition for which the patient is being treated.
- (10) The data and any report obtained therefrom shall not be a public record, except that the Department for Medicaid Services may submit the data as evidence in an administrative hearing held in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
- (11) Knowing failure by a dispenser to transmit data to the cabinet as required by subsection (3), (4), or (5) of this section shall be a Class A misdemeanor.
- (12) Knowing disclosure of transmitted data to a person not authorized by subsection (6) to subsection (8) of this section or authorized by KRS 315.121, or obtaining information under this section not relating to a bona fide specific investigation, shall be a Class D felony.
- (13) The Governor's Office for Technology, in consultation with the Cabinet for Health Services, shall submit an application to the United States Department of Justice for a drug diversion grant to fund a pilot project to study a real-time electronic monitoring system for Schedules II, III, IV, and V controlled substances. The pilot project shall:
 - (a) Be conducted in two (2) rural counties that have an interactive real-time electronic information system in place for monitoring patient utilization of health and social services through a federally funded community access program; and
 - (b) Study the use of an interactive system that includes a relational data base with query capability.
- (14) Provisions in this section that relate to data collection, disclosure, access, and penalties shall apply to the pilot project authorized under subsection (13) of this section.
- (15) The Cabinet for Health Services may limit the length of time that data remain in the electronic system. Any data removed from the system shall be archived and subject to retrieval within a reasonable time after a request from a person authorized to review data under this section.
- (16) (a) The Cabinet for Health Services shall work with each board responsible for the licensure, regulation, or discipline of practitioners, pharmacists, or other persons who are authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense controlled substances for the development of a continuing education program about the purposes and uses of the electronic system for monitoring established in this section.
 - (b) The cabinet shall work with the Kentucky Bar Association for the development of a continuing education program for attorneys about the purposes and uses of the electronic system for monitoring established in this section.

- (c) The cabinet shall work with the Justice Cabinet for the development of a continuing education program for law enforcement officers about the purposes and users of the electronic system for monitoring established in this section.

Effective: July 13, 2004

History: Amended 2004 Ky. Acts ch. 68, sec. 1, effective July 13, 2004; and ch. 107, sec. 1, effective July 13, 2004. -- Amended 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 295, sec. 1, effective April 9, 2002. -- Created 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 301, sec. 13, effective July 15, 1998.

Legislative Research Commission Note (7/13/2004). This section was amended by 2004 Ky. Acts. chs. 68 and 107. Where these Acts are not in conflict, they have been codified together. Where a conflict exists, Acts. ch. 107, which was last enacted by the General Assembly, prevails under KRS 446.250.